

ABSTRACT

According to a request from a broadcast facility or a user terminal, a billing server encrypts broadcast data for a broadcast facility or a user terminal that will receive the broadcast data, distributes encryption keys for decrypting the encrypted broadcast data, stores the viewing commencement time of the program and the user information, periodically carries out updating of the encryption key, and carries out confirmation of reception of the encryption key, and at the same time, in the case that a request from the user terminal to terminate viewing of a program that is being viewed is received, or in the case that the confirmation of the reception of the encryption key is not obtained during the update, determines that the reception should terminate, and carries out billing processing such that the billing assessed depending on the time that the user of the user terminal was viewing the program.